

COUNTRY NEWS LETTERS

SOME INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN VARIOUS SECTIONS.

News Items Gathered All Around the County and Elsewhere.

Ehrhardt Etchings.

Ehrhardt, Dec. 30.—Christmas has gone, and the young folks have about gotten over their pleasures and have to commence thinking what they will do when New Year comes.

Dr. J. L. Copeland and his son, Chester, went to Florida to visit his father-in-law, Mr. Farrell, last week. Will return Tuesday or Wednesday of this week.

Christmas night, December 25th, at Ehrhardt Lutheran church, the Sunday-school celebrated the occasion with songs and recitals appropriate for the occasion. While it takes patience to train the little ones to sing and recite, one feels doubly paid to look at them act and sing in their innocent way.

Mr. O. D. Ritchie, of Ritchfield, N. C., and Miss Edrie L. Ehrhardt were happily married by Rev. D. B. Grose-close at the home of the bride's parents on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 24th of December. After the ceremony was over, at about four o'clock p. m., the groom and bride left for his home in Ritchfield, N. C., under a shower of rice. Congratulations for a long and happy life were wished them in their new undertaking.

Rain, and more rain, with some cold, has made several of our town's folks sick with colds.

Mrs. Bertha Jones is in town visiting her mother, brother and sisters.

Mr. Charley Thomas, of Smoaks, is on a short visit to friends in Ehrhardt. Will return to his work at Smoaks as cashier of one of its banks.

There is talk of several changes to be made among our clerks on the first.

Don't forget the parcels post starts by Uncle Sam on the first of January, 1913.

Judge J. C. Copeland has been busy recently settling people's disputes. JEE.

Country Correspondence.

Happy new year greetings. At your door to-night, (Tuesday,) stands an old friend, ragged, torn, leaving you forever. He has served you for three hundred and sixty-six days. How have we served him? Have we done the very best we could at all times; or have we just pulled along in a matter-of-fact way? May each reader of The Herald resolve to make the year 1913 the best yet spent.

The holidays have been very quietly but pleasantly spent in our midst.

Some of the rural schools resumed their work Monday, while some will start again next Monday. Pine Grove school will add some more desks during the holidays.

Some old proverbial sayings are that each day for twelve from Christmas day is emblematic of the corresponding month of the year. If that be true the farmers will make plenty of hay, for June and July promise plenty of rain.

With the end of the year many business changes will take place. The most marked is the change of county officers. Bamberg county, Barnwell county's daughter, was born January 19th, 1897. Her first sheriff was Capt. J. B. Hunter, and first clerk of court was Mr. C. B. Free. Both of these gentlemen have served in their respective offices from then till now. Mr. Free is still going to court, but Capt. Hunter, due to his years, did not offer for re-election. In retiring from the office of sheriff we waft good wishes to Mr. Hunter, as he has spent many of his best years in serving his country, the first cause leaving him with only one leg. To Sheriff-elect Ray we extend the very best wishes for a successful term as chief justice of the county.

Assaulted Book Agent.

Charleston, Dec. 30.—In the United States district court Friday proceedings were filed in a suit of \$10,000 against James Wheeler and L. C. Wheeler, of Saluda, who are alleged to have assaulted Andrew A. Canavan, of Chicago, now complainant in the action.

On December 6th, Canavan, who is a book agent, visited Saluda and while at the postoffice, he alleges the assault took place, following a lot of bartering to which he had been forced to submit. He was cut and bruised and otherwise badly treated, he alleges in his complaint and the action for damages follows.

BLEASE BENEFICIARY IN TOILS.

Adulterer, Paroled by Governor, Ordered Back to Penitentiary.

Columbia, Dec. 30.—Jack Parish, a white man of Marion county, who was convicted of adultery and was paroled by Gov. Blease on December 9, has been rearrested by the sheriff of Florence county and will be sent up to serve his term, as he has violated the condition of the parole. Telegraphic instructions to recommit Parish to the penitentiary were sent to the Florence sheriff by the governor to-night.

The knowledge that Parish had violated his parole came to the governor to-day in the shape of a telegram from Sheriff Thos. L. Burch, of Florence, reading as follows: "Have you paroled one Jack Parish, a white man, convicted Marion county? Has been convicted in this county for being drunk and disorderly. Sentenced on December 28 to county chain gang or fine of \$20. Also threatened to kill Rural Police Cole and Deputy Sheriff Cain. When he is released must I return him to penitentiary? Please advise at once."

The governor wired Sheriff Burch as follows: "Your wire. Recommit Jack Parish to penitentiary at once."

The following statement was given out by the governor as his reasons for paroling Parish: "Parish, Jack, 'white.' Convicted at the October, 1912, term of court for Marion county of adultery and sentenced to eight months in the State penitentiary."

"Petition was presented by the petitioner's mother, who is 72 years of age and who seems to be in very bad health. The petition states that the defendant is the sole support of an infirm mother, who is 72 years old and who is suffering for the necessities of life owing to her inability to earn a living by her daily toil. Her friends furnished the money to pay her way to Columbia and back to Marion. I presume this was done to touch the heart of the governor in person, and I am glad it can be so touched.

"The petition is signed, asking for the parole during good behavior, by W. E. Blue, sheriff Marion county; D. F. Miles, clerk of court; James Stackhouse, county treasurer; J. D. Montgomery, L. T. Stackhouse, Wm. T. Evans and many other prominent citizens of Marion.

"Upon this showing I paroled the young man during good behavior, and on the further condition that he support his old mother. Parole dated December 9, 1912."

Used Christmas Rifle.

Charleston, Dec. 28.—Willie Rivers, a 10-year-old white boy, was brought to the police station by his father to-night after he had shot another boy, Clarence Barrineau, in the abdomen, with a parlor rifle which he had received as a Christmas gift. The lad told the police that Barrineau and other youngsters had been bullying him and remembering the gun which Santa Claus had brought him, he went to his room and got it, and shot Barrineau. Barrineau's condition is serious, though he has a chance for recovery.

Parkville Man Badly Shot.

Edgefield, Dec. 30.—In a difficulty, which occurred at Parkville on the 22nd of this month, J. H. Drennon was shot by A. S. Wilson, a pistol being used, the ball taking effect in the right side and penetrating the liver. Drennon was at once carried to a sanitarium in Augusta, where he now is, and although seriously wounded, it is thought he will recover.

Wilson, who was the railroad agent at Parkville, and whom Drennon went to relieve at the time of the difficulty, surrendered to the authorities to-day, and through his attorney, J. W. Thurmond, made application before Judge Devore for bail, it being granted in the sum of \$5,000, subject to increase should Drennon die. It is alleged that hard words passed between the men and that Drennon attacked Wilson with a knife when the latter fired.

WOULDN'T HEED WARNING.

Man Steps on Steel Door Sill and is Electrocuted.

Alexandria, La., Dec. 26.—Despite a warning not to enter a saloon, A. H. Gray, of Pawnee, La., to-night stepped upon the steel door sill and was electrocuted. Death was instantaneous. A heavily charged electric wire had fallen upon the building in which the saloon was located, charging the metal coping and the steel front, which connected with the door plate. Repairmen had admonished the stranger not to enter.

IN THE PALMETTO STATE

SOME OCCURRENCES OF VARIOUS KINDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

State News Boiled Down for Quick Reading—Paragraphs About Men and Happenings.

One hundred and five bales of cotton were burned on the railroad platform at Cheraw on Saturday, having caught from a spark from a locomotive.

Jasper Brown, aged 20, while hunting near Woodruff on Saturday, accidentally shot himself, tearing away one side of his face and cracking his skull from eye to ear.

Benjamin B. Bellinger has been appointed teller of the Bank of Branchville, he succeeding T. M. Patrick, who resigned. There were a number of applicants for the position.

G. Wilmot Davis, of Columbia, accidentally shot and killed himself while hunting on Friday near that city. He leaves a wife, daughter of Capt. Richard O'Neale, and two small children.

Joseph M. Williams has been appointed agent of the Southern Railway at Branchville, he succeeding P. M. Wimberly, who resigned to accept the position of cashier of the Bank of Branchville.

Hon. J. E. Swearingen, State superintendent of education, says that in 31 counties there was a falling off of 6,962 white children in school and 21,580 negroes as compared with the preceding year.

The average expenditure per pupil in the public schools for the past year in South Carolina was \$13.02 for white and \$1.98 for negroes, according to the report of State Superintendent Swearingen.

The city council of Charleston has adopted a resolution asking the State legislature to pass a license law for that city for the sale of liquor. Evidently the people there are getting disgusted at conditions in Charleston, and they should be.

Attorney General-elect Thos. H. Peebles has tendered the position of assistant attorney general to Ashley C. Tobias, Jr., of Charleston, a young attorney, but he has declined to accept the place. Mr. Peebles has made another selection, but the name has not yet been given out.

Mad Dogs at Manning.

Manning, Dec. 31.—In the matter of the stray dog that appeared on Mr. Jeff D. Holladay's place last Friday and severely bit several valuable hogs, already reported in the News and Courier, the pathologist of the State board of health has reported from an examination of the dog's head that the animal had rabies. He makes the suggestion that the bitten hogs might be slaughtered within a few days and safely used as food, but later they may not be so used as food, but have to be killed anyhow.

Another dog, supposed to be mad, was killed on the streets of Manning yesterday afternoon, but some who saw the animal do not think it had hydrophobia. No arrangement was made to have this dog's head examined by the State pathologist.

KILLED IN ELEVATOR FALL.

Sam J. Moore, of Hartsville, Meets Almost Instant Death.

Hartsville, Dec. 31.—Sam J. Moore, a young white man of prominent family, an employee of the Carolina Fiber Company, in their paper mill here, was killed almost instantly this morning by the dropping of an elevator from the top floor to the basement, a distance of twenty feet. Will Lindley, colored, was perhaps fatally injured.

Mr. Moore and Lindley were in front of a truck loaded with paper; two colored men were pushing; just as the wheels of the truck had passed into the elevator, the structure gave way and shot a distance of 20 feet to the basement. Mr. Moore was thrown from the elevator, receiving injuries about the head which caused almost instant death. Lindley is in a serious condition from what appears to be a fractured skull.

The cause of the accident was the breaking of the eyebolt which was imbedded in the main beam of the elevator. The elevator had been in use 15 years and had been systematically inspected. The Carolina Fibre Company is very careful in looking to the safety of its employees. The breaking of the bolt within the wood beam could not be foreseen. The accident is very much deplored here.

EXPLOSION AT HAMLET.

A Boiler in Seaboard Roundhouse Bursts, Killing Eight employes.

Hamlet, Dec. 28.—The stationary boiler at the Seaboard roundhouse exploded here this morning at 7:05, instantly killed Mr. C. B. Utter, general houndhouse foreman, Mr. Wm. Utter, his brother and assistant foreman, and Mr. H. G. Reynolds, electrician, all white. Charlie Ledbetter, Jim Powers, Will Ballentine, John Thompson, Ed Gilchrist, all negroes, and one unidentified negro were also killed.

The Messrs. Utter had reached the roundhouse a few minutes before 7 o'clock and it had been reported to Mr. C. B. Utter that the injector on one of the boilers was not working properly. He, together with his brother, was inspecting the boiler when the explosion occurred. Both were directly in front of the boiler and their bodies were so badly mangled that it was necessary to use shovels in taking up their remains.

Force of Explosion.

Mr. Reynolds was in the dynamo room adjoining and was killed by the force of the explosion and the falling walls. All of the negroes were in the wash room adjoining the boiler room, and were washing up after stopping work. Every person in the building at the time of the explosion was killed. So great was the explosion that most of the machine shop was demolished.

One part of the boiler was hurled through an 18-inch wall and was carried over 500 feet. The body of Charlie Ledbetter was found over 200 feet from the building. All the killed, with the exception of Mr. Reynolds, were so badly mangled that their bodies were identified by clothing and articles in the pockets.

May Be More Dead.

On account of the falling walls covering the location with tons of brick and debris it is impossible to determine whether there are other bodies beneath the wreckage. Several locomotives in the adjoining building were slightly damaged and the other property damage will be large. The electric dynamo and much other machinery was destroyed.

The accident is the worst that has ever happened at the terminal here. July 27, 1911, within 100 yards of the location of the roundhouse where this explosion occurred, the wreck of the negro excursion train from Durham occurred in which 11 were killed, all of whom were negroes.

AUTOMOBILE RACER KILLED.

Several Spectators Injured when Car Plunges Into Crowd.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 29.—Hal Shain, a well known automobile racer, received injuries that caused death in half an hour, three others were seriously hurt and a number slightly cut and bruised, when the Shain's machine shot out of the cup-shaped track on the Concession pier at Venice this afternoon and plunged into the crowd.

Shain had been one of the chief attractions at Venice because of the small size of the track on which he rode and the great speed at which he travelled. The cup is 70 feet in diameter at the top and it requires a speed of 55 miles an hour to keep an automobile on the almost perpendicular track. A thin, red line a foot below the top serves as the "dead line" for the driver.

Shain lost control of his machine and it went over the "dead line." After splintering several railing posts it dropped to the bottom of the cup, but shot to the top again and plunged through the railing and among the spectators. Then the automobile fell back with Shain underneath.

Must Now Remarry.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—A decision of the Illinois supreme court to-day makes it necessary for scores of Chicago couples to remarry if they wish their union to be recognized as legal.

The court ruled that when a person violates the Illinois statute prohibiting remarriage within one year after the divorce, the ceremony is not legal even if performed in another State. Neither has one party any claim on the estate of the other. The children resulting from illegal marriages are without moral protection and have no standing in law.

Great numbers of Illinoisians have gone to other States and remarried in less than one year after being divorced in their own States. The unions have been considered legitimate, but the final court decision will compel them to remarry now of a year has intervened, or wait until a year has elapsed.

SPARTANBURG MAN KILLED

BODY OF ERASMUS D. SMOAK IS FOUND DEAD.

Robbery Was Evidently the Motive for Foul Deed—No Clue to the Murderers.

Spartanburg, Dec. 27.—What appears to be one of the foulest murders ever committed in Spartanburg county, with robbery as a motive for the crime, was brought to light this morning when the dead body of Erasmus D. Smoak, aged 74 years, a deaf mute who lived alone at his home about one mile east of Cedar Springs institute, was found in a crouching position on the floor of his workshop, a room that adjoins his dwelling, having been shot in the small of the back at close range with a shotgun which was loaded with bird shot.

A broken shutter in one end of the workshop and footprints under the window proves almost conclusively that the shot was fired from the outside of the window while Mr. Smoak, who is a cabinet maker, was at work on a piece of furniture in his shop when he received the fatal load. The murderer then climbed through the window and proceeded to rifle the pockets of the dead man. His right hand pocket in his trousers was found turned wrong side out and a small leather purse in which he is known to have carried small change was missing. An examination of his trunk was made and the top was found pried open and the contents ransacked, but whether any money was taken cannot be stated as it is not known whether or not he had any money in his trunk.

His coat was buttoned tightly and in his inside pocket three \$20 bills were found, while in his vest pocket was found a ladies' gold watch, both the money and watch being evidently overlooked by the murderer and robber in his haste to get away.

It is believed that the crime was committed during the night while Mr. Smoak was at work in his shop, for his body was found near the head of the work bench and between the thumb and index finger of his right hand was a lead pencil about two inches long. A carpenter's square, a piece of plank, were on the work table, indicating he was in the act of ruling off the board when he received his death wound. A small lamp, the oil of which had been burned out, was also on the table.

The tracks under the window through which the shot is supposed to have been fired lead from the window to a patch of woods.

At the coroner's inquest a large number of witnesses were examined, though no evidence was adduced to point to the guilt of any one. Some of the witnesses testified that the last they saw Mr. Smoak alive was last Sunday, while others stated they saw him late Sunday afternoon. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death from gunshot wounds inflicted by a party or parties unknown to the jury. The deceased is survived by one daughter and four sons, all of whom reside in distant States except Herbert Smoak, who lives in Union.

Woman Jumps from Battery.

Charleston, Dec. 30.—Mabel Gray, a young woman, living on Mayzack street, attempted suicide a few minutes before 10 o'clock last night by leaping from the sea wall of East Battery into the waters of the harbor.

Two ladies and a gentleman who happened to be near by at the time saw the woman overboard, and in a few minutes a telephone message from a residence on East Battery, sent a yawl, manned by three members of the Carolina Club, dashing across the waters towards the place where the woman had disappeared. Despite the fact that at least ten minutes had elapsed since the woman made her leap, the occupants of the yawl found her floating in the water, unconscious but still alive. They hauled her on board, rowed back to the Yacht Club with all speed, the police automobile patrol was summoned and the woman was rushed to the Roper Hospital.

Lost Life to Save Girl.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 30.—Search was begun here to-day for the body of Ned Kline, a musician of the cruiser California, who lost his life yesterday attempting to rescue Miss Anna Hidden, who was drowned.

Kline and Miss Hidden were standing on a rock taking photographs when the girl fell 20 feet into the ocean. Kline sprang after her and was dragged down in the surf. Miss Hidden's body was recovered. Kline enlisted from Memphis, Tenn.

MYSTERY ABOUT MAN'S DEATH.

Spartanburg Man Dies from His Injuries—Woman Held as Witness.

Spartanburg, Dec. 28.—Was M. R. Adkins, the North Church street market man, assaulted Christmas eve or early Christmas morning, or was he injured by falling out of Andy Clark's hack? This is the problem that the police department is trying to solve.

In connection with the mysterious manner in which Mr. Adkins sustained injuries which may result in his death, as the attending physicians entertain little hope for his recovery, Irene Godfrey, a white woman, was taken into custody by the police yesterday as a material witness in the case, as it became known that she was in the hack with Mr. Adkins Christmas eve. When questioned by the police, she denied being in the hack, but later admitted that she was with Mr. Adkins, stating that he was perfectly well when he left her. She said that if he fell out of the hack or was assaulted by any one, she did not know it.

Mr. Adkins was carried to the home of J. Q. Davis by Andy Clark, a hack driver, Christmas morning about 4 o'clock. The man was in an unconscious condition and failing to regain consciousness, Mr. Davis called in an ambulance and had the injured man sent home. He has never regained full consciousness. Once or twice during Thursday he showed partial signs of consciousness.

Clark, the hackman, says that before he carried Mr. Adkins to Mr. Davis's home on Wofford street, he drove him to H. G. Armfield's residence, on Green street, and in getting into the hack he fell and injured his head. Mr. Armfield told the police that when Mr. Adkins left his home that he got into the hack as well as any man and he did not see him fall. After leaving the Armfield home Mr. Adkins was carried to Mr. Davis's house and when he was lifted into the house he is said to have been in an unconscious condition.

It was reported on the streets that Clark and Mr. Adkins might have had a quarrel about the hack fare, resulting in a fight, but when Clark was asked about this phase of the question he said that he and Mr. Adkins had not had the slightest trouble about hack fare.

Flock Stands by Minister.

Springfield, Mass., Dec. 28.—The Rev. Dr. Conrad Hooker, pastor of the First Methodist church of Westfield, who was detained Monday by the Springfield police for alleged shoplifting and who was later released on payment of \$20.50, will continue his duties as pastor, it is said.

Dr. Hooker's church has a membership of several hundred. The officials of the church assert that not only will Dr. Hooker's flock stand by him, but that the stores in which Dr. Hooker admitted he took articles will receive only scant patronage from members of the congregation. Resentment is expressed against the Springfield police for treating Dr. Hooker "like a common thief."

Members of the church assert that half a dozen powders taken to relieve a headache became operative after he reached Springfield. In the crowded overheated stores they assert, his mind became a blank and that he experienced an irresistible impulse to take articles which appealed to his fancy.

At the regular quarterly conference of Dr. Hooker's church tomorrow night a vote of confidence in the pastor and a request that he continue his work will be passed.

The Springfield police are "standing pat" in the case. A plain clothes man stationed in a large department store says he saw Dr. Hooker making away with a toilet set and traced to Dr. Hooker articles taken from two other stores.

Buzzards Ought to Be Killed.

Athens, Ga., Dec. 30.—W. N. Brunson professor of veterinary science at the State College of Agriculture, advocates the destruction of the buzzard. On this subject he says in a bulletin which he has just issued: "The buzzard is protected by the law but this law should be repealed and a reward paid for its slaughter." His reason for this position is that the buzzard, as a scavenger, feeds on dead animals and ranging over a wide territory of the country spreads hog cholera and other diseases of live stock. As a precaution against the danger of the buzzard, he says that the dead animals must be buried deep in the earth after their carcasses have been treated with quick lime.